



JEFFERY GALLAHAN
Assemblyman
131st District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As state assemblyman for the 131st District, I have the privilege to represent many student athletes. Numerous students, parents, and coaches have contacted me with their concerns that many interscholastic sports programs are still not allowed to operate in our schools, and I am writing to ask you to allow all interscholastic sports to resume.

This past fall, some interscholastic sports programs were allowed to move forward in New York; however, several, like football, were not. Many other states have successfully resumed interscholastic sports and professional sports have resumed across the nation, even here in New York.

Our students have been patiently waiting to play again, all while being able to watch professional athletes compete as they cannot. This past weekend, the Buffalo Bills played in a home playoff game with thousands of spectators in the stands. In fact, you mentioned during your State of the State Address the success of the Buffalo Bills' first home game with spectators. If the opportunity to play competitively is awarded to professional teams, the same opportunity should be awarded to our youth. While students can go to a Buffalo Bills game in person or watch it on TV, they are not allowed to play, even without spectators.

Recently I spoke with many athletic directors in my district who are ready to begin playing sports again. They have extensive plans in place to ensure that student athletes will be safe while playing and are eager to receive additional guidance. The lack of guidance has led to many students turning to paid club sports, putting our underprivileged youth who cannot afford club sports to be put at yet another disadvantage. No one wants to put our students' health at risk. Athletic directors, coaches, students and parents will take whatever steps deemed necessary in order to resume interscholastic sports.

Time is of the essence. Our students cannot continue to be left on the sidelines. I am respectfully asking that you allow all interscholastic sports to resume.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery L. Gallahan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeff Gallahan
Member of Assembly
131st District